Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A process for controlling the charge of an ~~The use of layered double hydroxide salts as charge control agents in~~ electrophotographic toner, electrophotographic developer, ~~toners and developers, in~~ powder coating ~~materials~~material, electret ~~materials~~ material or a chargeable material in an and in electrostatic separation ~~processes of chargeable materials~~process comprising the step of adding at least one charge control agent to the electrophotographic toner, electrophotographic developer, powder coating material electric material or chargeable material, wherein the at least one charge control agent is a layered double hydroxide salt comprising

~~, wherein the double hydroxide salt contains~~ at least one of monovalent ~~and/or~~ and divalent metal cations, ~~and also~~

trivalent metal cations, and ~~also contains~~

one or more organic anions A of the formula (I)

$$X - R - Y \qquad (1)$$

~~in which~~wherein

X is hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulfato or sulfo;

Y is carboxyl, sulfate or sulfo, and

R is an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, olefinic, cycloolefinic, heterocycloolefinic, aromatic, heteroaromatic, araliphatic or heteroaraliphatic radical having a total of at least 8 carbon atoms, ~~which may~~

~~be~~optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, amino, halogen, C_1-C_{22}-alkyl, C_1-C_{22}-alkoxy, -C_1-C_{22}-alkylene-(CO)-O-$(CH_2CH_2O)_{0-50}$-alkyl, -C_1-C_{22}-alkylene-(CO)-O-$(CH_2CH_2O)_{0-50}$-haloalkyl, carboxyl, sulfo, nitro and cyano.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the number of hydroxyl groups in the layered double hydroxide salt is from 1.8 to 2.2 times the sum of all the metal cations.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the monovalent metal cations ~~present~~ are ~~those~~ selected from the group consisting of Li^+, Na^+ and K^+~~, divalent metal cations present are those from the group Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Co^{2+}, Ni^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, Cu^{2+} and Mn^{2+}, and trivalent metal cations present are those from the group Al^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, Co^{3+}, Mn^{3+}, Ni^{3+}, Cr^{3+} and B^{3+}~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein the double hydroxide ~~salts contain~~ salt contains Mg^{2+} and Al^{3+}.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the molar ratio Mg^{2+} : Al^{3+} is from 3.1:1 to 1:2.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein the one or more organic ~~anion~~ anions A is an anion selected

from the group consisting of benzilic acid, naphthalenedisulfonic acids, naphthalenedicarboxylic acids, hydroxynaphthoic acids, octanedicarboxylic acid, decanedicarboxylic acid, dodecanedicarboxylic acid, tetradecanedicarboxylic acid, hexadecanedicarboxylic acid, octadecanedicarboxylic acid, naphthalenetetracarboxylic acid, sulfosuccinic acid (C_6-C_{20})-alkyl monoesters and sulfosuccinic acid (C_6-C_{22})-fluoroalkyl monoesters.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein ~~some of~~ the one or more organic anions A are more than one organic anions and at least one of the more than one organic anions are of the ~~are replaced by other organic anions A', A' corresponding to the~~ formula H-R-Y ~~and both R and Y having the definition described in formula (1)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ process as claimed in claim 7, wherein ~~A'~~ the at least one of the more than one organic cations is an anion of a C_{12}-C_{44} fatty acid~~, especially stearic acid~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, wherein the layered double hydroxide salt is a calcined hydrotalcite.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 7 in combination with one or more further~~claim 1, wherein the adding step further comprises adding at least one charge control ~~agents~~ agent selected from the group

consisting of triphenylmethanes; ammonium ~~and~~ compounds; immonium compounds, iminium compounds; fluorinated ammonium ~~and~~ compounds; fluorinated immonium compounds; biscationic acid amides; polymeric ammonium compounds; diallylammonium compounds; aryl sulfide derivatives, phenol derivatives; phosphonium compounds; ~~and~~ fluorinated phosphonium compounds; calix[n]arenes, cyclically linked oligosaccharides ~~(cyclodextrins)~~, interpolyelectrolyte complexes ~~(IPECs)~~; polyester salts; metal complex compounds, salts of ionic structured silicates, hydroxycarboxylic acid-metal complexes; ~~and~~ hydroxycarboxylic acid-nonmetal complexes, benzimidazolones; azines, thiazines ~~or~~ and oxazines~~, which are listed in the Colour Index as Pigments, Solvent Dyes, Basic Dyes or Acid Dyes~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~use~~ process as claimed in ~~at least one of claims 1 to 8 in a concentration of~~claim 1, wherein the at least one charge control agent is present from 0.01% to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the electrophotographic toner, electrophotographic developer, coating material, powdercoating material, electret material or ~~materials for electrostatic separation~~chargeable material.

12. (Currently Amended) An electrophotographic toner, powder or powdercoating material, ~~containing~~ comprising from 30% to 99.99% by weight of a binder, from 0.01% to 50% by weight of at least one layered double hydroxide salt ~~as set forth in claims 1 to 9~~comprising
at least one of monovalent and divalent metal cations,
trivalent metal cations, and

one or more organic anions A of the formula (I)

$$X - R - Y \qquad (1)$$

wherein

X is hydroxyl, carboxyl, sulfato or sulfo;

Y is carboxyl, sulfate or sulfo, and

R is an aliphatic, cycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, olefinic, cycloolefinic, heterocycloolefinic, aromatic, heteroaromatic, araliphatic or heteroaraliphatic radical having a total of at least 8 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, amino, halogen, C_1-C_{22}-alkyl, C_1-C_{22}-alkoxy, -C_1-C_{22}-alkylene-(CO)-O-$(CH_2CH_2O)_{0-50}$-alkyl, -C_1-C_{22}-alkylene-(CO)-O-$(CH_2CH_2O)_{0-50}$-haloalkyl, carboxyl, sulfo, nitro and cyano, ~~and, if desired, from 0.001% to 50% by weight of a colorant,~~wherein the weight percentages are based ~~in each case~~ on the total weight of the electrophotographic toner, powder or powdercoating material.

13. (Currently Amended) A magnesium-aluminum hydroxide carbonate having an Mg to Al ratio of from 1.9:1 to 3.1:1, containing anions in the following ~~proportions, based in each case~~proportion based on the total weight of the Mg-Al hydroxide carbonate:

from 1% to 45% by weight of a combination of sebacic acid and a C_{12}-C_{44} fatty acid or ~~of~~ a partly fluorinated or perfluorinated sulfosuccinic acid (C_6-C_{22})alkyl monoester, the ratio between sebacic acid and the fatty acid or the sulfosuccinic monoester being from 1:50 to 5:1~~, or from 0.5% to 70% by weight of a partly fluorinated or perfluorinated sulfosuccinic acid (C_6-C_{22})alkyl monoester~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A magnesium-aluminum hydroxide carbonate as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized by one~~wherein the magnesium-aluminum hydroxide carbonate is of the formulae

$Mg_6Al_2(OH)_{16}(CO_3)_b Z_a \times n H_2O$ or

$Mg_4Al_2(OH)_{12}(CO_3)_b Z_a \times n H_2O$,

where b is zero to 1, n is zero to 10, Z is a combination of anions of sebacic acid and anions of one or more C_{12}-C_{44} fatty acids~~, especially stearic acid~~, and the number a is such that Z accounts for from 1% to 45% by weight, based on the total weight of the compound, and where the ratio between sebacic acid and the fatty acid or the sulfosuccinic monoester is from 1:50 to 5:1.

15. (New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein divalent metal cations are selected from the group consisting of Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Zn^{2+}, Co^{2+}, Ni^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, Cu^{2+} and Mn^{2+}.

16. (New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the trivalent metal cations present are selected from the group consisting of Al^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, Co^{3+}, Mn^{3+}, Ni^{3+}, Cr^{3+} and B^{3+}.

17. (New) The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the C_{12}-C_{44} fatty acid is stearic acid.

18. (New) The electrophotographic toner, powder or powdercoating material as claimed in claim 12, further comprising from 0.001% to 50% by weight of a colorant.

19. (New) A magnesium-aluminum hydroxide carbonate having an Mg to Al ratio of from 1.9:1 to 3.1:1, containing anions in the following proportion based on the total weight of the Mg-Al hydroxide carbonate:

from 0.5% to 70% by weight of a partly fluorinated or perfluorinated sulfosuccinic acid (C_6-C_{22})alkyl monoester.

20. (New) The magnesium-aluminum hydroxide carbonate as claimed in claim 14, wherein the magnesium-aluminum hydroxide carbonate is of the formulae:

$Mg_6Al_2(OH)_{16}(CO_3)_b\ Z_a \times n\ H_2O$.

21. (New) magnesium-aluminum hydroxide carbonate as claimed in claim 14, wherein the magnesium-aluminum hydroxide carbonate is of the formulae:

$Mg_4Al_2(OH)_{12}(CO_3)_b\ Z_a \times n\ H_2O$.

22. (New) A charge controlled electrophotographic toner, electrophotographic developer, powder coating material, electret material or chargeable material for use

in an and in electrostatic separation process made in accordance with the process of claim 1.

23. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the electrophotographic toner, electrophotographic developer, powder coating material, electret material or a chargeable material further comprises a binder and the adding step further comprises incorporating the at least one charge control agent into the binder.

24. (New) The process as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one charge control agent is present as an aqueous, aqueous-organic or organic dispersion.

25. (New) The process as recited in claim 24, wherein the at least one charge control agent has a particle size between 20 nm and 1 μm.

26. (New) The process as recited in claim 24, wherein the at least one charge control agent has a particle size between 50 and 500 nm.